

Filed for intro on 02/23/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 626

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Winfield "Scotty" Moore, III, for his outstanding musical accomplishments and congratulate him upon being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their lifelong efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Winfield "Scotty" Moore, III, whose unparalleled musical accomplishments and guitar prowess have been duly recognized; he will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the Fifteenth Annual Induction Ceremony on March 6, 2000 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Scotty Moore will be honored with a permanent exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland, Ohio; he is one of five honorees first inducted in the new category "Side-men"; and

WHEREAS, he was born on December 27, 1931, and grew up on a farm five miles from Gadsden, Alamo, and Humboldt, Tennessee; he was the fourth son of Scott and Mattie Moore; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore's musical abilities were evident at an early age; he took up music at the age of eight, influenced by his father and older brothers who played in a small string band that performed locally; and

WHEREAS, at the age of ten he was given a guitar by his brother who taught him some chords, and from that point on this remarkably talented man was self-taught; and

WHEREAS, after three years of meritorious service in the United States Navy, Scotty Moore returned to Memphis where he worked for two of his brothers as a hatter in their dry cleaning business; and

WHEREAS, he dedicated his extra time to pursue his music; he soon formed a band called The Starlite Wranglers; they played, with a style that is now known as rockabilly, in clubs in and around Memphis, Arkansas, and Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1954, the group made and released one record at the Memphis Recording Service, better known as the home of Sun Records; and

WHEREAS, Scotty Moore became good friends with Sam Phillips at Sun Records, and the two men began a venture that changed the musical world forever; and

WHEREAS, Scotty called on a young singer that Phillips had mentioned as showing promise; he invited the 19 year-old to his home for a try-out; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1954, the young Elvis Presley came to his home; and

WHEREAS, Scotty Moore, Elvis, and Bill Black, the bassist for The Starlite Wranglers, were together from the start; they recorded the song "That's All Right" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore served as Elvis's first manager and they began to tour, recording "Heartbreak Hotel" with RCA in 1956; and

WHEREAS, the group stayed intact on the road, in recording sessions, and on movie tracks until 1958 when Elvis entered the army; Mr. Moore then began his own studio, Fernwood, in Memphis as engineer, producer, and guitar player; and

WHEREAS, he produced the hit "Tragedy" by Thomas Wayne. Scotty Moore subsequently used his astute skills to manage the Memphis, and later Nashville, studios of Sam Phillips; and

WHEREAS, in Nashville, he became a widely respected producer in his own right when he began his Music City Records in 1964; his steady influence contributed to the natural feel and excitement of the 1968 "comeback special" which was said to have gotten Elvis' career back on track; and

WHEREAS, after selling the studio in 1973, he began engineering independent productions at Monument Studio, followed by live TV engineering for Opryland Productions; he did live engineering of the Country Music Association's "CMA Awards Show," and started a tape duplicating company in 1976 that he owned and ran until 1992; and

WHEREAS, his incredible guitar playing has been studied and memorized by every generation of guitar players since rock began; but despite his powerful influence, Scotty is a truly humble man and has never sought the limelight; and

WHEREAS, committed to sharing his love of music, on April 10, 1992, Scotty and Carl Perkins recorded the "706 Reunion" album at Sun Records, as they played together on stage in Memphis; he also did shows with D.J. Fontana and the Jordanares in England, as well as with Ronnie McDowell in the U.S. and Europe; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 he and D.J. recorded the album "All the King's Men," the highly acclaimed album that won "Best Independent Album" in the Nashville Music Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moore's laudable endeavors include co-authoring the book "That's Alright, Elvis" in 1996; it was nominated as Best Music Book of the Year; and

WHEREAS, among his numerous accolades, Gibson guitars re-released their ES-295 in a special limited edition with Scotty's signature in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Scotty Moore epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Moore for his artistic integrity and peerless musical talent in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Winfield "Scotty" Moore, III, for his singular artistry and his unparalleled contributions to popular music in Tennessee and worldwide, and congratulate him upon being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.